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A Toast

Ames Forestry Club A. J. Van der Poel
Rijksinstituut voor onderzoek in de bos

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Editor's Note: Prof. McNabb represented the Forestry Department at the XVI World Congress of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations in Oslo, Norway during June 1976. He participated in a pre-congress meeting of the IUFRO-working Party on genetic resistance in elm to disease and insects at the "Dorschkamp" Research Institute for Forestry and Landscaping in Wageningen, the Netherlands, serving unofficially as vice-chairperson of the meeting. The words below were given as a toast by the Institute Director at the banquet given by the Dutch Forest Service for the participants and their guests.

"There will always be a reason to make a feast, but I can hardly be made responsible for a feast on the outbreak of the aggressive strain of Dutch elm disease.

But as long as there will be the good cooperation between experts and as long as you will have expectations to find the solution there is reason enough to be gay.

About these expectations I would like to say something.

If what you expected was always the result of research, there would be no point of doing research, only in having expectations.

Thus research is done in order to find departures from expectation. Hence the unexpected is the whole point of scientific research.

Therefore if you expect that you will find or cross and make a Dutch elm disease resistant elm you do not find it.

The conclusion is clear. Do not expect to find the solution, then you will find it.

Although you are with so many experts together I do not expect that you will find in this week the solution of all problems, but even therefore I could hope that this expectation is wrong.

Let us then drink to your health, the health of the elm and to those unexpected results."

Ir. A. J. van der Poel, Director
Rijksinstituut voor onderzoek in de
bos- en landschapsbouw "De Dorschkamp"

Wageningen, June 16th, 1976

